THE NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS

SPRING 1970

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THE NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS

Published by The Nature Conservancy
1522 K Street
Washington, D. C. 20005

WILLIAM CANINE, EDITOR

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Cover Photo: Seated in his favorite rocker, Willie Browne talks with a visitor. Mr. Browne is the donor of the Theodore Roosevelt Preserve, near Jacksonville, Florida. (Photo by Tom Sennett.)

Inside Front Cover: Northern California Coast Range Preserve, in Mendocino County. The photograph was taken at the ford on the south fork of the Eel River. (Photo by Verna Johnston.)

The Nature Conservancy is a member-governed organization, incorporated in the District of Columbia for non-profit educational and scientific purposes. The National Office is in Washington, D. C., and Regional Offices are located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and San Francisco, California.

The Nature Conservancy was incorporated in 1951. The Conservancy's first effort at land-saving was the Mianus River Gorge in Westchester County, New York, in 1954. This very successful endeavor turned out to be the forerunner of 400 projects in which the Conservancy has since been involved. These 400 sanctuaries are located in 41 states and total approximately 140,000 acres.

The Nature Conservancy works closely not only with numerous scientific and conservation organizations but with municipal and state governments as well as the federal government.

The Nature Conservancy is the organization rallying the skills, the techniques, and the funds actually necessary to save land. Its total resources are massed for this one objective.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

During the past quarter year the Conservancy has assured the preservation of more than 5,000 acres of land, ranging from prairie to woodland, marsh, and swamp. From California to New York and Florida, these 40 tracts range in size from one-third acre to more than 3,000. Eight are additions to existing preserves.

BOUVERIE WILDFLOWER PRESERVE (Sonoma County, California). With a lush growth of wildflowers on gentle, upsloping meadow, the 10-acre preserve is a gift of Mr. David Pleydell-Bouverie. The area will be administered by the Sonoma County Parks and Recreation Department.

BUNNY AND HELEN'S WOODS—Addition—(Marin County, California). The 25-acre area, a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin I. Power, is near the Point Reyes National Seashore. Cover is of bay laurel and Bishop pine.

DOAN TIDELANDS — San Francisco Bay Project (Marin County, California). A gift of Mrs. Alberta Doan, this 2.5-acre tideland parcel is part of Mount Tamalpais Game Refuge and offers a scenic view of Richardson Bay.

EDWARDS-HEIFETZ TIDELANDS—San Francisco Bay Project (Marin County, California). A gift of Mr. Darrell Edwards and Mr. Harry Heifetz, the 20-acre tideland area overlooks East Marin Egret Rookery. The area is important for checkerboarding against future development.

HARRIET MABLE MORSE BAYLANDS REFUGE — San Francisco Bay Project. See page 8.

NORMAN TIDELANDS — San Francisco Bay Project (Marin County, California). Of value in protecting the present shoreline and open waters of San Rafael Bay, this 7-acre area is the gift of Dr. Haskell Norman of San Francisco.

PELL TIDELANDS — San Francisco Bay Project (Marin County, California). A gift of 5.6 acres, located about 80 feet west of Doan Tidelands, this area is also part of the Mount Tamalpais Game Refuge. A gift of Mrs. Rodman Pell.

PRYOR TIDELANDS—San Francisco Bay Project (Marin County, California). This 2.3-acre tideland parcel is a gift of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Pryor. The area commands a fine view of Richardson Bay.

BALLYHACK PRESERVE (Litchfield County, Connecticut). Notable for its fine stand of 75 to 100-year-old white pine, this 55-acre preserve is a gift of the trustees of the estate of Mrs. Nancy S. Day, Mrs. Nancy Day Gillespie, and Mr. Leonard W. Cronkite. Included in the preserve is scenic highland, with a small brook, which protects the watershed for the stand of pine.

DEVIL'S DEN — Addition — (Fairfield County, Connecticut). The purchase of this 5-acre area by the Connecticut Chapter brings the acreage of Devil's Den to 1,376 acres. The preserve is the first permanent research station of the Conservancy.

DUCK POND HILL (Fairfield County, Connecticut). A gift of Mrs. Audrey S. Hess, this 4-acre wood includes large white oaks about 150 years old and overlooks a brook and pond heavily used by waterfowl.

GOODWIN MARSH (Middlesex County, Connecticut). A 5-acre undisturbed marsh, the preserve is located at the head of a stream which is a tributary to the Menunketesuck River. The area is a gift of the Save the Wetlands Committee, Inc.

JUNIPER HILL NATURAL AREA (New Haven County, Connecticut). An outstanding wildlife area, the 132-acre preserve is a gift of Mr. Mark L. Sperry, II. With two ponds, marshland and woodland, the preserve offers refuge and nesting sites to Canada geese, black ducks, green herons, kingfishers and red-winged blackbirds. Steep, boulder-strewn rock outcroppings and scenic overlooks characterize the upland forest of oak and hickory. The area will be used as an outdoor classroom by nearby schools.

PIKE NATURE PRESERVE (New London County, Connecticut). High rocky cliffs up to 80 feet contrast with the swamps, woodland and open fields of this 59-acre preserve. Deer and small mammals, as well as many bird species abound. In the mixed hardwood forest are unusually fine black oaks and yellow poplars. A small brook flows through the property, a gift of Miss Janet S. Taylor.

QUIDDITY PRESERVE (New Haven County, Connecticut). A gift of Mrs. Frances J. Miner, the 11-acre woodland lies on a hill, sloping down to a fair-sized brook. Wildflowers abound.

DING DARLING SANCTUARY (Lee County, Florida). With the assistance of the Conservancy, a total of 80 acres has been added to the J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge, 25 by purchase and 55 by land exchange for the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

FAKAHATCHEE ISLAND (Collier County, Florida). Boasting the largest mangrove forest in North America, this 70-acre area is an inholding in Ten Thousand Islands. Previously threatened with development into private fishing camps, the area consists of marsh, upland and water. It serves as a unique estuary area and is nearly untouched. It was purchased by the Collier County Conservancy.

SANIBEL ISLAND (Lee County, Florida). The Conservancy assisted the Sanibel-Captiva Foundation in the acquisition of 192 acres, part slough and part hammock on Sanibel Island. The area is an outstanding bird refuge.

WEST SHORE CONSERVATION—Addition—(Martin County, Florida). Purchased by the West Shore Conservation Project Committee, the 20-acre area has been turned over to the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

PRAIRIE GROUSE PRESERVE — Addition — (Marion County, Illinois). A 160-acre gift of Mr. Charles C. Haffner, III, and Mr. Strachan Donnelley, the area is typical open prairie. The active Prairie Grouse Committee of the Illinois Chapter has been responsible for the preservation of 970 acres of prairie chicken habitat in Jasper and Marion Counties.

ROCK CAVE (Effingham County, Illinois). Rich in both animal and plant life, the 75-acre preserve was purchased by the Illinois Chapter. It receives its name from the several overhanging sandstone ledges which border a small creek which flows through the property. The forest is dominated by oaks, hard maple and hickory.

MONTSWEAG PRESERVE—Addition—(Sagadahoc County, Maine). 35 acres of wood and marshland, the preserve is a gift of Miss Lois Thurston. The area lies along Montsweag Brook which leads into Montsweag Bay and consists of salt marsh cove and mixed hardwoods.

FENNVILLE GOOSE AREA (Allegan County, Michigan). This partly wooded 40-acre tract is being held for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The area will be an addition to a state game refuge.

STURGEON RIVER (Delta County, Michigan). Consisting of 3,215 acres, the heavily forested area is an inholding in Hiawatha National Forest and is being held for the U.S. Forest Service. Located in upper Michigan, the land fronts on Lake Michigan.

FRENCHMAN'S BLUFF (Norman County, Minnesota). Considered one of the finest dry prairies in the state, but threatened with overgrazing, this 44-acre preserve was purchased by the Minnesota Chapter. The area possesses an excellent view of the Red River Valley.

HINKSON VALLEY NATURE PRESERVE (Boone County, Missouri). Steep limestone bluffs rise above the creek which flows through the 51-acre preserve. The area, with its abundant plant and animal life will be used by the University of Missouri as an outdoor classroom. It is a gift of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Elder and Mr. and Mrs. Paul W. Mathews.

FRANK BOLLES NATURE RESERVE (Carroll County, New Hampshire). Fronting on Chocurua Lake, the 247-acre preserve is a gift of Mrs. Evelyn Bolles Phenix. The 7½-acre pond is exceptionally scenic. The remaining property is swamp and woodland. The area will be administered by the Chocurua Lake Conservation Foundation.

ATLANTIC DOUBLE DUNES—Roberts Tract, Potter Tract (Suffolk County, New York). The 2.27-acre Roberts Tract, a gift of Mrs. Grace M. Roberts, and the 1.1-acre Potter Tract, a gift of Mr. Dickson B. Potter, are part of an anticipated preserve stretching 2½ miles along the Long Island coast. This area is considered one of the most valuable and unspoiled beach areas on Long Island.

CAROLIN'S GROVE (Westchester County, New York). With a thick cover of red pine, this 4½-acre area is located in the town of Pound Ridge. It is a gift of Mr. Robert E. Lawther.

DANIEL R. DAVIS SANCTUARY — Addition —(Suffolk County, New York). A 10-acre gift of Mrs. Eleanor Erhardt, the preserve totals 50 acres. The oak-pitch pine wood is home for numerous bird species, including hermit thrushes.

GREENFIELD WILD AREA (Saratoga County, New York). A project of the Eastern New York Chapter, the preserve is an example of swampland in early and late stages of development. Its 20 acres are located near Skidmore College and consist of a pine, red maple, yellow birch swamp with calcareous spring water, resulting in an unusual plant community.

LONG LAKE (Westchester County, New York). This 37-acre area fronts for about 300 feet on Lake Waccabuc. Hemlock lines the shore; the remaining forest is mixed hardwood.

LOUSE POINT PRESERVE (Suffolk County, New York). Strategic in preserving lands on Acabonak Harbor, this ⅓-acre area contains an unusual biotic community. Acabonak Harbor is characterized by marsh and dune. This preserve is a gift of Mr. William B. Lewis.

MIANUS RIVER GORGE PRESERVE—Addition—(Westchester County, New York). A 4-acre gift of Mrs. William B. Hubbell, a trustee of the Mianus River Gorge Conservation Committee, brings the preserve's total acreage to 239. Mianus Gorge was the Conservancy's first project.

MILLCOVE WATERFOWL SANCTUARY (Suffolk County, New York). This 16-acre area, chiefly salt water pond, located at the northern tip of Huntington Harbor, is a donation of Mrs. G. G. de Clairville. The area is valuable as habitat for many species of waterfowl and other animals and is unique in the huge population of oysters, clams, eels and fish of many types. The pond was formed by construction of a dam about 200 years ago and receives a regular flow of tidal waters from Huntington Harbor, a tributary of Long Island Sound; large quantities of fresh water are admitted from a stream and several springs. Of historic significance is a grist mill, built in the early 19th Century, one of the few remaining on Long Island.

T. DECKER ORR PRESERVE (Suffolk County, New York). A gift of Mr. and Mrs. T. Decker Orr, the nearly 14-acre marsh area is on the south shore of Long Island. A small stream flows through the partly wooded, partly marsh preserve. Bird life is abundant; principal inhabitants are woodcock, warblers, red-eyed vireos, with some wintering ducks and herons.

WELD SANCTUARY (Suffolk County, New York). Located on the north shore of Long Island, about 800 feet from Long Island Sound, the 42½-acre woodland is a gift of Mr. David Weld. The area is outstanding as a refuge for many varieties of birds and small mammals. The northern portion of the property is dominated

by cedar, dogwood, honeysuckle and locust; the southern portion is mainly oak, beech and cherry. Common ground plants include trailing arbutus and ladyslippers, including the unusual white variety.

MASON NECK—Addition—Clarke Tract (Fairfax County, Virginia). This 191-acre area will be added to the previous 2,665 acres maintained by state and federal agencies. It is a bald eagle breeding area with wooded land and marshes.

MOUNTAIN MEADOW PRESERVE (Carroll County, Virginia). A gift of Mr. and Mrs. James Walter Carter, the hilly preserve is mainly a white pine plantation. The 40-acre area is near Hillsville.

The Bennett Juniper, probably the oldest Juniperus occidentalis *and perhaps the oldest living thing on earth rises 87 feet and has a girth of 43 feet. Estimates of the famous tree's age range from 2,500 to 6,000 years. A 3.7-acre tract upon which the tree stands has been donated by Mr. J. W. Martin, Sr. In Tuolumne County, California, the tract is at an elevation of 8,350 feet and contains several all-year springs as well as another giant juniper.*

SAN FRANCISCO BAY PROJECT
a progress report

The Nature Conservancy is well on its way to becoming a major landowner in San Francisco Bay. The dots on the map tell the dramatic story.

Since the San Francisco Bay Project was announced in the Summer 1969 TNC *News,* the Bay Project has added nine more acquisitions to join the original dot on the map at Lower Tubbs Island. Eight of these represent generous gifts of tidelands along the beautiful Bay coastline of Marin County. They total 43.5 acres. The ninth represents the optioning for purchase of a crucial 78-acre marsh and tideland parcel in the South Bay. The Harriet Mable Morse Baylands Refuge, named in memory of the former owner's mother, will be a key unit of the proposed national wildlife refuge for the South Bay. Regularly the property is visited by rare and endangered bird species.

Because of their "checkerboarding" effect on neighboring lands, the tideland gifts in Marin County are far more important than their size would seem to signify. Shoreline residents of Marin are finding that The Nature Conservancy offers them a way to save their treasured coastline while relieving them of the burdens of tideland ownership. Marin tideland owners are in the unique position of being able to "save the bay" through their own public spirited action.

A $25,000 grant from the San Francisco Foundation has enabled project director Gregory Archbald to expand his staff. In November, Steven Steinhour, an attorney with special experience in marine and estuarine resource problems, and Phillip Wallin, a recent graduate *cum laude* of Stanford University, both joined the Bay Project staff. Other generous grants from individuals assure continuation of the expanded staff operation.

Extensive area-wide news coverage of the Bay Project has helped to make Bay landowners and the public aware of the potentiality for assistance in the drive to save San Francisco Bay.

Fund raising for Lower Tubbs Island and the new Morse Baylands project continues. Huey D. Johnson, Western Regional Director, points out,

"To make the kind of impact on the Bay we want to make, we'll have to buy many more acres in key locations. Right now we are talking with many owners of such lands. Additionally, we are preparing for a major fund drive, the purpose of which will be to establish a multi-million dollar rotating fund for Bay acquisitions."

Commenting on the fact that this is the first Nature Conservancy project to have its own staff, Johnson said he felt the results which have already been attained "prove the experiment's great value for land conservation." He noted with regret that the year Mr. Archbald had set aside to assist in pointing the Bay project towards success would be up in July, when Mr. Archbald takes a year's leave of absence to pursue overseas study.

Mr. Johnson said, "Our objective in setting up this program was to make a major impact within a short time on a complex land acquisition problem. The fact that we are accomplishing our short range objective while making important advances towards the major goal demonstrates the importance of concentrating skilled energy and enthusiasm on the problem. I am satisfied that the experiment's noteworthy success might be duplicated in other areas of the nation where the need is great. The few thousands of dollars spent to start this project have already repaid our investment in multiples, considering the values of land saved, and have put us well on our way to saving the many millions of dollars worth of lands which the Bay Project will eventually hold."

The egret settles down again on a far pond, and you are left momentarily off balance by the quick trip across the milleniums. To stand here (Lower Tubbs Island) on this lonely primordial marshland and gaze at the far-off symbols of the frenetic urban complex along the far shore gives you a sense of the infinite ranges of space and time.

A flashback illuminates the meaning and value of this place: You remember standing in a similar marsh a few years ago at Bay Farm Island near Alameda, watching the birds wheel through the skies by the thousands against a backdrop of the shoreline cities. Now the Bay Farm Island marsh is filled and has become a subdivision.

The steady advance of progress has obliterated that marsh along with 80 per cent of the bay's original tidelands. Doubtless many more of the marshlands will disappear, along with their wildlife, their winding channels, and the insight they offer into the labyrinthine reaches of evolution.

But here, at the north end of the bay, in 330 acres of marsh known as Lower Tubbs Island, the San Francisco office of The Nature Conservancy is beginning a program to save this and other remaining tidelands.

The "Save the Bay" measure passed by the Legislature last summer cannot in itself preserve the bay or its natural shorelines. The Bay Conservation and Development Commission has recommended the preservation of Lower Tubbs Island and environs as a wildlife sanctuary, but it has no funds to acquire the land — and no prospect of any.

Consequently The Nature Conservancy, a non-profit organization with an enviable record of obtaining gifts of land and funds to preserve vital wildlands across the Nation, has organized a San Francisco Bay Project. The purpose is to raise private money and acquire bay lands before the bulldozers are ready to move.

First of these is Lower Tubbs Island marsh, a former duck club area that had been slated for subdivision, with a price tag of $300,000, the key to 1000 acres of adjacent State-owned tidelands critical to many species of wildlife. About 90 per cent of the canvasback ducks coming down the Pacific Flyway, for example, winter in that part of the bay. Some 60 species of birds have been counted on the island itself in a single day.

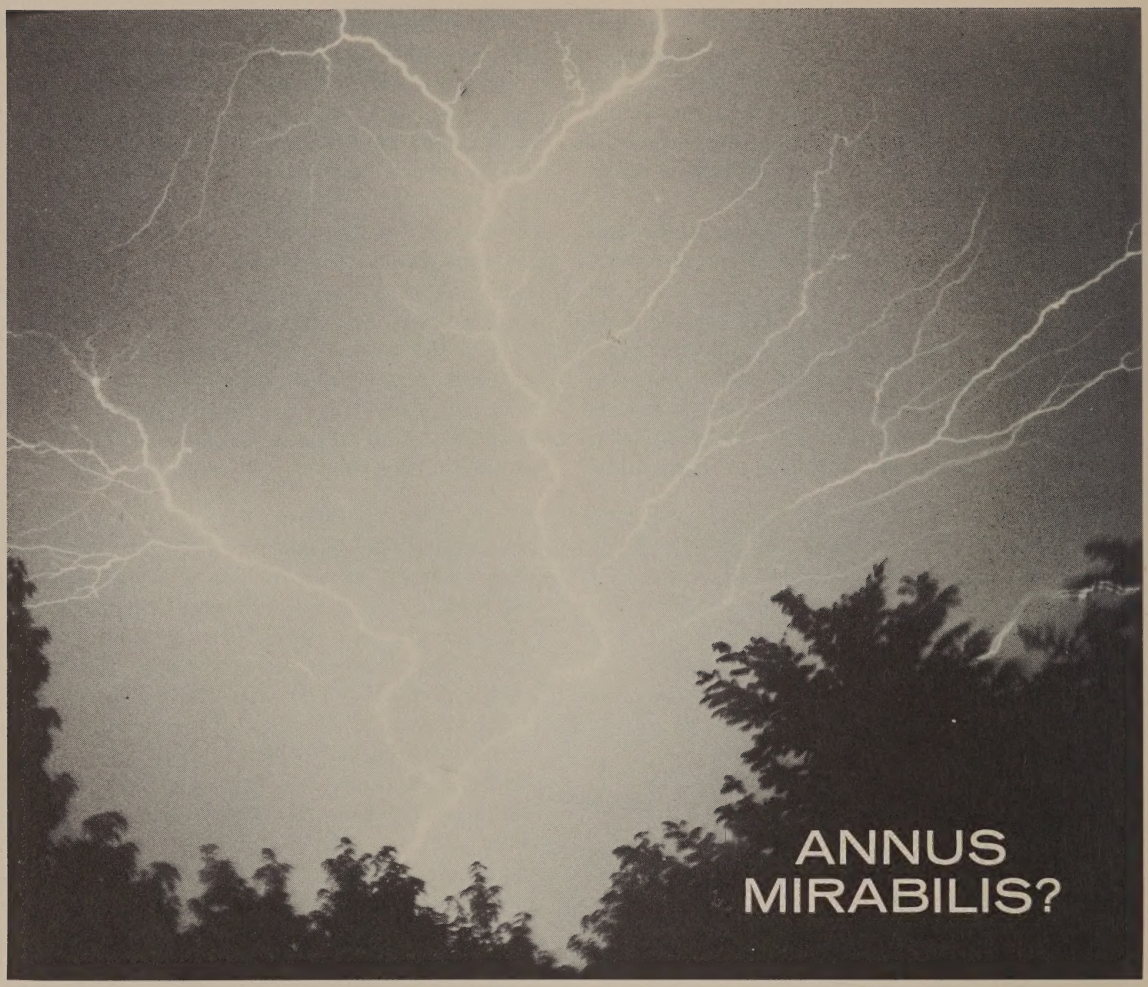
Here is the potential for an invaluable outdoor museum where school children as well as adults could enjoy rare marshland beauty, peer into the wonders of creation, and experience the most profound dimension this bay has to offer — a journey into time.

Along the flat subarctic tundras of the far north, when the cold air masses move down from the polar regions, the great flocks, sensing the autumnal tilt of the planet on its axis, head down the flyways of the continent, following the sun.

Since the end of the last Ice Age 10,000 years ago, millions of water birds and shore birds have come to the marshes of this bay on the long southward trek.

If the marshlands are saved, the flocks will continue to come for thousands of years, giving generations of uprooted city dwellers contact once again with the vital rhythms of the seasons, the migrating wildlife and the turning earth.

San Francisco *Examiner & Chronicle*



RICHARD SMITH

This is the year, 1970, in which the real beginnings of one of man's most dramatic chapters could be written. Everybody is saying so. Everybody is looking upon 1970 as upon a fresh new page. Resolutions are in order and we are all singing "Auld Lang Syne" for an era that should be put to rest. It's been a long era of largely innocent, if mindless, wickedness. It should come to an end. 1970 could be the opening chapter of a new period in which the Vandals are routed. It could be.

Or it could be simply the start of another decade of ecological horrors, a great opportunity tragically let slip.

Here are some of the things some Americans are saying about our country and our world:

Richard A. Falk, Professor of Politics at Princeton, at a Congressional hearing: "At this point, we seem more likely to poison ourselves to death than to die of starvation. Because of disparities in living standards, it also becomes evident that population growth of rich, highly industrialized societies does far more damage per capita to the environment than does a population explosion in an Asian or African country."

Nicholas Von Hoffman, writing in the Washington *Post:* "On the average, one American in his lifetime will use 21,000 gallons of leaded gasoline, 56,000,000 gallons of water, 10,150 pounds of meat, and 28,000 pounds of milk . . . Twenty-nine per cent of all families now own two cars. We can't go on like this. There are 70 million cars on the road now, four million more than there were last year. Either we give up our cars,

our jets, our nice homes, our buying and using, or we limit the number of Americans allowed to come into existence. Even so, we may have to do both. It already costs $50 a year to empty each garbage can in New York City and there's no place to put the garbage after we collect it."

Dr. Victor Scheffer, author of *The Year of the Whale,* quoted in the Bellevue (Wash.) *American:* "To the extent that man preserves the infinite complexity of the natural world and shuns the artificial standards of the engineered world, to that extent will he be free forever to choose what he wills from the world's variety of riches."

Douglas L. Brooks, President of The Travelers Research Center, Hartford, Connecticut: "Ultimately, we can see man turning away from a preoccupation with growth and size ... towards a striving for equilibrium, balance, and harmony with his surroundings. By that time, a high quality environment will be viewed as another self-evident inalienable right."

Senator William S. James, President of the Maryland State Senate, at a hearing for a new plan for the Maryland tidelands: "I own 2,000 feet right on the Susquehanna flats. I could get it rezoned industrial, if I had a big offer, and I really don't think I should have that power. I don't think I should be subjected to that sort of temptation ... You know, you don't really own anything in this life. You just have temporary custody of it."

Walter J. Hickel, Secretary of the Interior, speaking to the National Recreation and Park Association last fall: "I have had some months now to look around from the high ground in Washington and have come to the conclusion that an overriding feeling around the country is the importance of protecting our National Environment. It has become one of the biggest practical and political issues today. It means that all of us must weigh our every move ... consider the impact of all our actions that affect this earth—a somewhat fragile craft on which we are all riders together. The earth is all we have and we should give it loving care."

Dr. Garret Hardin, University of California at Santa Barbara, writing in the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists:* "Everyone has heard of the Aswan Dam in Egypt. It has been built high up in the Nile for two purposes: to generate electricity and to provide a regular flow of water for irrigation of the lower Nile basin. Ecology tells us that we cannot do merely one thing; neither can we do merely two things. What have been the consequences of the recently built Aswan Dam?

First, the replacement of periodic flooding by controlled irrigation is depriving the flood plains of the annual fertilization it has depended on for 5,000 years. (The fertile silt is now deposited behind the dam, which will eventually have to be abandoned.) Consequently, artificial fertilizers will have to be imported into the Nile Valley.

Second, controlled irrigation without periodic flushing salinates the soil. There are methods for correcting this, but they cost money.

Third, the sardine catch in the eastern Mediterranean has diminished from 18,000 tons a year to 500 tons, a 97 percent loss, because the sea is now deprived of flood-borne nutrients. No one has reimbursed the fishermen for their loss.

Fourth, schistosomiasis (a fearsomely debilitating disease) has greatly increased among Egyptians. The disease organism depends on snails, which depend on a steady supply of water, which constant irrigation furnishes but annual flooding does not. Of course, medical control of the disease is possible—but that, too, costs money.

What will be the political effects of this demographic fact? This is a most difficult question—but would anyone doubt that there will be many political consequences, for a long time to come, of trying to do "just one thing," like building a dam on the Nile? The effects of any sizable intervention in an ecosystem are like ripples spreading out on a pond from a dropped pebble; they go on and on."

Richard M. Nixon, President of the United States, in the environmental message to Congress: "... No longer is it enough to conserve what we have; we must also restore what we have lost. We have to go beyond conservation to embrace restoration."

A VERY NICE PLACE T

In 1905, William Henry Browne, a lawyer who had left New York City in 1877 and settled in Jacksonville, Florida, turned to his son, sixteen years old that day, and told him the land they were standing on was from that day forward to be his. "Now you look after it. And don't let the hunters in here." Sixty-five years later, Willie Browne, in his 80th year, could recall that he had kept the pact with his father. He had not ever let the hunters in.

Willie Browne never married. His parents died during the '20's, and in 1953 his brother Saxon, who had lived with him on this land along the St. Johns River, died. In a sense, Willie Browne had become a recluse. In the small frame house he and his brother had built, there was no electricity and no telephone. Fifty years had passed since he had last bought a suit of clothes. But if Willie Browne lived almost a hermit's life, he nevertheless remained abreast of what was happening in the world, especially as it related to the woods and marshes he owned and loved.

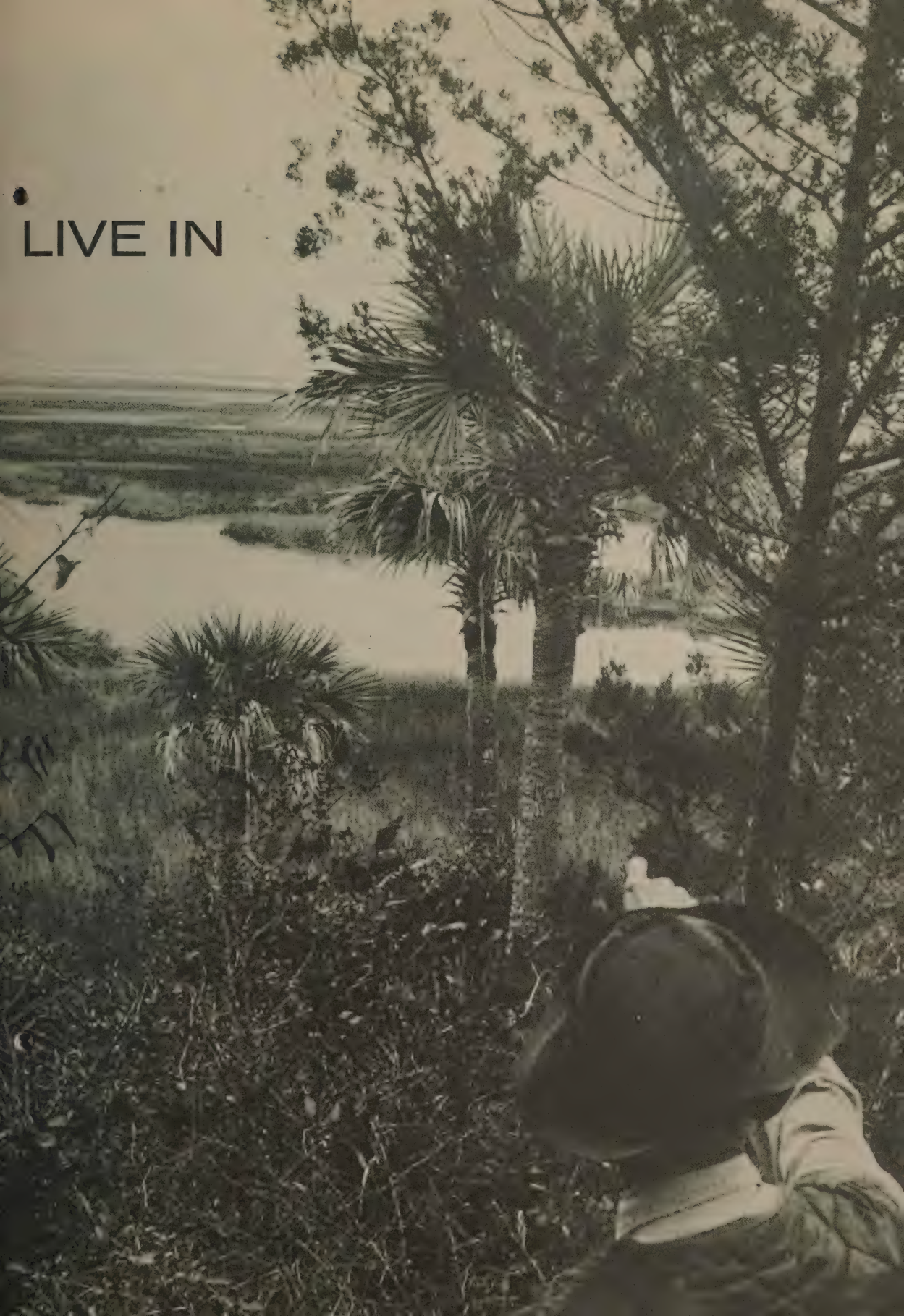
He has never been overly possessive of his land. Only the ravagers have been unwelcome. Archaeologists from the University of Florida have for many years done extensive explorations of the Indian ceremonial mounds and kitchen middens which are found on the property. The Indians who dwelt here are believed to have been forerunners of the Seminoles and the Timucuans. Several years ago, Mr. Willie, as he is known to the many young friends he has made over the years, donated part of his tract to the Campfire Girls so that the girls could experience real wilderness.

The time came when Willie Browne began to consider the disposition of his land, to seek the means by which he could maintain into the foreseeable future the pact he had made with his father. He knew that all over the United States there are housing developments and industrial complexes sprawled atop what once had been glorious natural areas prized for generations by families who finally had been forced by one event or another to relinquish their hold. Willie Browne was determined that no such fate would overtake his land.

The federal government and the Florida state government were approached, but neither would accept the condition he insisted upon, that the land be preserved in its natural state, without alterations. Neither would a famous private agency, whose help he sought, commit itself to abide by Willie Browne's conditions. Then, through a friend in Jacksonville, Willie Browne learned of The Nature Conservancy. The response of the Conservancy to his inquiry was immediate and enthusiastic. This was precisely the sort of thing the Conservancy was set up for. And that was ten years ago.

On November 15, 1969, Willie Browne signed the deed transferring his 361 acres on the south bank of the St. Johns River to The Nature Con-

Willie Browne points out over the marshes of his 361-acre "million dollar" tract of woods and marsh on the St. Johns River near Jacksonville, Florida. An outstanding natural area and bird sanctuary, the land was deeded to The Nature Conservancy in November of 1969. (Photo by Joe Caldwell).


LIVE IN

servancy. The land is valued at $1,000,000. Willie Browne has nothing else. This land had been his entire estate. At a small salary contributed by a member of the Conservancy, he will stay on in his little house, taking care as he always has of this lovely land.

The nationwide publicity that resulted from his act, so incredible to a world in which nearly everyone seems bent on finding the legendary million rather than giving it away, left Willie Browne a little startled, a little like a buck caught in a searchlight's glare. His first reaction, quite naturally, was annoyance, the annoyance of a man whose privacy had always been inviolate and who suddenly finds himself on front pages of newspapers from the Pacific Coast to New England.

Quickly though, he realized that the publicity, offensive as it might be to his privacy, could turn out to be inspiration to other people. For others to know what he had done might provide occasion for introspection and reevaluation of closely held beliefs, for example, the assumption that if one holds land worth a million dollars one reaps the dollars regardless of consequence to the land. So he stood patient in the glare of publicity and hoped that somewhere someone else might from his example find the courage to sacrifice the dollars instead of the land.

JOE CALDWELL

"I've always looked forward to doing it, and now I'm glad I've done it. I'm satisfied now." Famous though he has become, Willie Browne spends many hours walking about the woods and watching the birds and the small animals.

Then the letters began to arrive. From all over the country they came, addressed to Willie Browne, Jacksonville, Florida. One had his picture, taken from the newspaper, pasted on the envelope just to make sure it reached him.

"Thanks for caring," wrote a young woman in Nashville, Tennessee. And from Mandeville, Louisiana, a woman told him, "Every time I go camping, I will think of you and thank God there are such people left in the world." A Santa Barbara woman wrote, "It was a thoughtful, generous, unselfish, farsighted act of which you should be very very proud. Not many of us I am afraid would have the moral courage to turn down a huge sum of money to do the thing he felt was right at such cost."

Since Willie Browne had decreed that his preserve be christened the Honorable Theodore Roosevelt Preserve, there were letters urging him to reconsider and let his own name be used, at least along with the former president's. No; Willie Browne had his reasons for naming the sanctuary after Theodore Roosevelt and he would abide by them.

There were, of course, the proposals of marriage, a number of them. One widow wrote him, "You look like a healthy young man at 80. Let me know if you want me to meet you in Jacksonville or if you would prefer to meet me in New Orleans." Mr. Willie thanked her and said, Merry Christmas, but he was staying where he was and where he had been since he was six months old. Once he had taken a trip to the Georgia border.

Because he had always been interested in young people, the letters that most pleased him were the ones that came from the children. And there were many. An 8-year-old Racine, Wisconsin, boy wrote, "If everyone donated their land like you did it would be a very nice place to live in." And a little five-year-old girl said simply, "Thank you. That's really nice."

With the help of a friend, Mr. Willie is answering every one of his letters, first of all those from people who misunderstood the story and thought that Willie Browne is a man with so much that to give away a million dollars is nothing. But only one letter, he says, was from a real crackpot, a man who fussed because he felt the land should have been given to him.

"Yes," says Willie Browne, "this is a nice place. I hope it will be kept this way."

JOHN R. McDANIEL 1906-1969

John R. McDaniel of Carmel, California, died just a few weeks before Christmas. Mr. McDaniel was chairman of the Monterey Peninsula Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and a member of the national Board of Governors. Attempting to sum up the man and his work, John Woolfenden wrote in the Monterey *Peninsula Herald:*

"Of all the workers for conservation on the Monterey Peninsula, John R. McDaniel was the most tireless. To reach him on the phone, you needed to start dialing early in the morning, for he arose early and his line was busy as soon as he thought other people were awake.

"He was Mr. Nature Conservancy. As a member of the national board and as president of the Monterey Chapter, he was dedicated 24 hours a day to the proposition that the scenic landmarks must be preserved, and that the money must be raised to save them.

"Ever smiling and soft spoken, he made it his business to see personally anyone he thought might contribute to the cause. During the drive to save Jack's Peak, which he co-chaired, he was a virtual door-to-door solicitor for funds.

" 'If people invest their own money, no matter how little, they'll appreciate a park at Jack's Peak that much more,' he insisted. 'They have a proprietary interest in it.'

"He was instrumental in adding to the Point Lobos State Reserve. It was principally due to John McDaniel's efforts that the nearly 10,000-acre Forest of Nisene Marks near Aptos became a state park. Through The Nature Conservancy and John McDaniel, some 2,000 acres of the Molera Ranch at Big Sur were set aside for a state park. He found other public spirited conservationists who were willing to finance the project until the state could take it over.

"He was full of ideas for future projects, including a cooperative venture to save a large acreage at Elkhorn Slough from industrial use. It is to be hoped that The Nature Conservancy can find someone equally dedicated, equally far-seeing to carry on the work.

"John McDaniel died last week. It was suggested by his devoted wife, Jeanette, who worked always by his side, that contributions in his memory be made to The Nature Conservancy.

"We should like to suggest that he deserves another memorial—a park named in his honor, McDaniel Park, whether the name be given to the eventual park at Jack's Peak or to some other park established in the future.

"For John McDaniel was a man we need to remember."

MIKE JOHNSON

Molera Tract

Many contributions in John McDaniel's memory have been sent to The Nature Conservancy, and with these gifts the John R. McDaniel Memorial Fund has been established. The Board of Governors will determine how the fund will be employed.

Readers of the Monterey *Peninsula Herald* responded eagerly to the newspaper's suggestion that a park be named eventually for Mr. McDaniel. Among the letters received praising Mr. McDaniel and seconding the idea of a park was the following from E. Edward Graves:

"As a co-worker with John McDaniel during his years as a resident of the Carmel area, I should like to second John Woolfenden's estimate of his effectiveness as a conservationist. His lovable personality was a great asset in carrying to completion the various worthwhile projects in which he became involved. I hope that the suggestion of naming a park after him finds the necessary support."

The many expressions of regret from his fellow Conservancy members, governors, and staff members were condensed by Huey Johnson, Western Regional Director: "Monuments to individuals such as the Pyramids and the Taj Mahal are fascinating and impressive. John's monuments, the thousands of acres of beautiful wild lands which his energy and devotion have saved will, I sincerely believe, prove to be of even greater value and benefit to the needs of man. He was a rare individual. We who remain are better for having known him."

NEWS BRIEFS

RICHARD DURRELL ELECTED TO BOARD

Richard H. Durrell, Professor of Geology at the University of Cincinnati, was elected to membership on the national Board of Governors of The Nature Conservancy at the January meeting of the Board in Washington. The special election was held to fill the term of John R. McDaniel of Carmel, California, who died late in 1969.

Professor Durrell has been for many years an active member of the Ohio Chapter, having served the chapter as vice chairman and a member of the Board of Trustees. He is a winner of the Green Leaf Award. Mrs. Durrell, too, is very active in chapter activities and is a member of the Board. The 280-acre preserve known as The Wilderness (Charles A. Eulett Preserve) in Adams County, Ohio, was a gift of the Durrells.

Professor Durrell is vice president of the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History, chairman of the Natural Areas Committee of the Ohio Audubon Society, and a member of the board of the Miami Purchase Association.

MRS. YARN HONORED

Mrs. Charles P. Yarn, Jr., elected last year to the Conservancy's Board of Governors, was chosen Georgia's top conservationist of the year by the Georgia Sportsmen's Federation. The award was presented by Governor Lester Maddox at the Federation's annual convention in December.

Mrs. Yarn was honored for her efforts leading to the purchase of Egg and Wolf Islands. Formerly a member of the Conservancy's National Council, Mrs. Yarn is chairman of the Georgia Coast Reserve Committee, which had the responsibility for raising $28,000 for 700-acre Egg Island and is responsible for raising funds to complete purchase of close-by Wolf Island, costing $83,500.

GEORGIA REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. James J. White of Atlanta has been appointed the Conservancy's Georgia representative. In this volunteer capacity he will serve as a contact and a source of information regarding the Conservancy's activities in Georgia. A stock broker for Reynolds & Company, Mr. White has long been active in numerous conservation organizations, including the Georgia Coast Reserve Committee, which is currently raising funds for the purchase of Wolf Island. He is a graduate of Emory University in Atlanta and serves as a research assistant for Georgia State University's biology department.

$100,000 ANONYMOUS GIFT

A member of the Board of Governors who asks that the gift remain anonymous has contributed $100,000 to the Conservancy's Guarantee and Income Fund. The gift was announced at the October 25 meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board.

The Guarantee and Income Fund, essentially the Conservancy's endowment, is invested in stocks and bonds. The fund is administered by the Finance Committee of the Board of Governors, the members of which are Dr. George Cooley, John Duberg, Brandon Barringer, and *ex officio,* Edward R. Kingman.

Besides working as an endowment, with the income helping to support the Conservancy operations, the securities in which the fund is invested may be used as collateral for loans to assist land preservation projects. As a result of this gift and an earlier anonymous gift of $50,000, as well as the funds received from more than 100 new Life Memberships in 1969, the Guarantee and Income Fund is now nearly $700,000.

1969 TAX REFORM

According to John F. Jaeger, the staff attorney of The Nature Conservancy, no radical effects will be felt in the Conservancy's operation as a result of the Tax Reform Act of 1969. "Generally speaking, the Act increases the limitation on the allowable charitable contributions deduction from 30% of adjusted gross income to 50%. The 30% limitation is retained with respect to gifts of property held on a long term basis in which there is unrealized appreciation in value.

"However, with a contribution of appreciated property to the Conservancy, the donor may deduct the full value of the property donated under the 50% limitation, if he elects to take the unrealized appreciation into account for tax purposes. This may be a useful tool if the gift is a long-term capital asset with a high basis. In either case, the five-year carry-over remains in effect."

Mr. Jaeger notes that under the Act, bargain sales lose much of their attractiveness. "The cost or other basis of the property is allocated between

that portion of the property which is sold and that portion which is given, based on the fair market value of each portion."

FIRST NATIONAL BIOLOGICAL CONGRESS

The First National Biological Congress, scheduled to be held November 6-10 in Detroit, Michigan, will make a notable departure in both approach and purpose from traditional scientific gatherings. Sponsored by the American Institute of Biological Sciences and the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, the Congress will bring together specialists in all areas of biology, students, professors, and public officials in Congress, state and city government.

It is hoped that this varied participation will begin a dialogue, leading to a better understanding of the relevance of the biological sciences to "man and his environment" and, ultimately, better long range environmental planning.

Basic science symposia, held in the mornings, will include speeches by experts in genetics, ecology, population, chemistry and evolution. Scientific societies will participate in the afternoons with workshop sessions, exhibits and symposia. Representatives from all levels of government will join students and professors in panels to discuss topics previously presented.

For further information contact Dr. Max Ben, Secretary, First National Biological Congress, American Institute of Biological Sciences, 3900 Wisconsin Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C.

"TEACH-IN" TAKES HOLD

In September, 1969, Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson proposed that students on college campuses across the nation organize lectures, symposiums, outdoor rallies and convocations to discuss and dramatize the crisis of the environment. He proposed that one day be set aside for this activity, a national 'teach-in.'

Response was overwhelming. By December, Environmental Teach-In had been incorporated as a non-profit organization, and was actively coordinating plans and providing guidance for the participants. A deadline was set—April 22, or E-Day, and with its establishment, the idea took on a momentum of its own.

As of mid-February about 700 colleges, 300 high schools and an unknown number of community groups were planning programs for the 22nd. In most instances the emphasis was being placed on community—not merely campus—involvement. In St. Louis, for example, a Coalition for the Environment was formed, representing 20 organizations and working with civic, campus, labor and religious groups to coordinate city-wide plans.

Many of the participants had plans to compile an environmental inventory which would serve as an opportunity for student dialogue with public and industrial officials and scientific experts about possible solutions to environmental problems and the consequences of further delay.

Unique, perhaps, is the plan of the Boston Area Ecology Action organization to open an Ecology Food Store in Cambridge. The non-profit store would sell "organically grown food, packaged in recycleable containers, free of pesticides and additives." It would also stock "bio-degradable" soaps, and books such as *The Whole Earth Catalog* and the *Household Ecology Handbook*.

Student attitudes seem best expressed by Denis Hayes, national coordinator of the Environmental Teach-In; "While small conservation movements have 'done their best' the next step must be to widen the base of educated support for environmental issues. The time has come to involve the whole society."

ROCKY MOUNTAIN PARK SEMINARS

The ninth season of Rocky Mountain National Park seminars will begin June 22. Courses offered include several in ecology, geology, and plant identification. An Ecological Conservation Workshop, July 27-August 8, concludes the session. Contact: Tom C. Thomas, Executive Secretary, Rocky Mountain Nature Association, Estes Park, Colorado 80517.

SUMMER JOBS

The Student Conservation Association, Inc., a non-profit organization, has a list of more than 250 positions for well qualified high school and college students for summer work in national park and forest service areas.

Although students do not receive salaries, living expenses are provided by the Association. For further information contact The Student Conservation Association, Inc., Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, Oyster Bay, L. I., New York 11771.

SANCTUARY JOB

The Beaversprite Sanctuary is looking for a full time naturalist to assume direction of this 1,300-acre wildlife preserve. A house and salary are offered. Please write Mrs. Dorothy B. Richards, Beaversprite Sanctuary, R. D. 1, Dolgeville, New York, for more details.

THE PRAIRIE WORLD, by David F. Costello. *Thomas Y. Crowell Company (1969) $7.95; 242 pp.*

Some time ago on the high bluffs of the Mississippi River I reflected glumly on the efforts of a local service club to replace the native hill prairie vegetation with Colorado spruce trees. At another location, this along the Minnesota River, the bur oaks so typical of the savanna-like slopes of that valley have been girdled and "more valuable" red pine seedlings planted in their place.

If those responsible for these minor ecological outrages could have read *The Prairie World* they might have reassessed their plans to "improve" nature. They certainly could not have helped but gain some appreciation for what remains of the North American prairie.

The Prairie World is written by one who knows the prairie intimately: its plants, its animals, its soils, its climate and the manifold complex of interrelationships. Dr. Costello also knows of its people, the Indians of the past and their present day successors. From the eastern see-saw beginning along the prairie-woodland border through the tall grasses and out to the high prairie country Dr. Costello has obviously studied the prairie long and thoroughly.

The prairie is diminished, indeed it is essentially gone, and we are both richer and poorer for its passing. Richer in productivity of food, fiber and material wealth. Poorer in that we have lost so much of the diversity of life that was unique to the prairie and which is irretrievably gone. It does no good to deplore the loss; rather the need is to act now to retain some of what is left of this heritage.

Such prairie remnants as still exist are broken into thousands of discontinuous isolated and incomplete fragments that are evolutionally essentially sterile. Some of the plants and more of the animals are already gone. It is indeed timely that the prairie has so capable a chronicler to paint the picture for us now, both with a bold brush and more intimate detail, of the lives of big and little creatures and the plants that made the prairie a montage of interactions of living things and their environment. The prairie was the summation of all these lives: microorganisms, worms, arthropods, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals all existing in, with, and upon a world of plants.

The Prairie World is a book to be read with and for pleasure, but the reader will also gain an education. Many of us, lost as we are in our specialties see only the birds, the plants, the insects or the like. In this book we get an overview of the whole scene. Appropriately both plants and animals are identified by their scientific names when first mentioned in the text, a nicety that will be appreciated by readers who like to know what they are reading about.

Albert G. Johnson

AMERICA THE VANISHING; Rural Life and the Price of Progress, edited by Samuel R. Ogden. *The Stephen Greene Press (1969) $6.95; 242 pp., illustrated.*

In case anyone has forgotten that America was once considered a paradise, full of lush vegetation, unspoiled rivers and streams, rich and varied wildlife, the first three chapters of this anthology cannot help but recall in vivid prose an America that is now, tragically, history.

The book begins with the observations of our first explorers, including De Soto, Marquette and Jolliet. Said Thomas Morton in 1622, "... if this Land be not rich, then is the whole world poore." Marquette observed the "monstrous" fish of the Mississippi, one of which, "struck so violently against our canoes that I took it for a large tree about to knock us to pieces."

Some of our finest writers are represented: Mark Twain, Henry Adams, Henry David Thoreau, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Theodore Dreiser, William Dean Howells, and, of course, John Muir and John Audubon. Through their eyes we see America from New England to the Midwest, Florida, and the West, in a beauty and richness that was common less than one hundred years ago.

An essay by Edwin Way Teale, "The Poisoned Hills," begins the last two chapters, asking, "All the hills were pleasant here less than a hundred years ago. What has happened?" Essays by Joseph Wood Krutch, Rachel Carson, Barry Commoner and E. B. White, devote themselves to the what and why of the question.

Much more than statistics and 'prophesies of doom' this excellent selection of essays portrays, unmistakably, what we have lost ... and how much more we stand to lose.

M.J.C.

THE RIBBON OF GREEN MARSH

The major thrust of The Nature Conservancy's 1969 program was towards the acquisition of salt marsh, primarily upon the Atlantic coast, but also in the San Francisco Bay area. A total of 20,000 acres was "banked," with the largest tracts located in Georgia and Florida. Smaller tracts were preserved in Connecticut, Maine, New York, Virginia, and California.

For anyone who might question the value of the North American tidal marshlands or wonder why all the fuss and bother, John and Mildred Teal's *Life and Death of the Salt Marsh** is available to answer and convince. Were it possible, every private owner of coastal marshland and every public official who has anything whatsoever to do with the disposition of salt marsh should be required to read this book. For without a special apprehension on the part of those persons who can do the most about protection of our salt marsh, the future is not especially bright.

In the areas of tight concentration of human beings, from Maryland to Maine, the loss of marsh has been sickening. Since 1914, for example, Connecticut has lost forty per cent of its total marsh area, nearly a third of that loss occurring between 1958 and 1964, two check years in which the Fish and Wildlife Service surveyed the marshes of the northeast.

Where does the marsh go? In the decade 1954-65, when between Maine and Delaware 45,000 acres of marsh were destroyed, some 15,000 acres were suffocated by dredging spoils and the maintenance of navigation channels. Another 11,000 acres were filled for building construction. Roads and bridges, marinas and airports, industrial use and town dumping accounted for the other 19,000 acres. Marshland that was forced out of production as a result of pollution, siltation, or diking, yet remained technically as marshland, is not even considered in these figures so that the actual loss was considerably greater.

The pressure on officials in coastal areas and on the owners of marshland can be expected to intensify. One of the many virtues of *Life and Death of the Salt Marsh* is the objectivity, the calm and patience, with which the authors point out the fallacy of most arguments for the destruction of marshland, the familiar "increased tax base" argument, for example.

In fact, most marshland is destroyed in bits and pieces, is devoured in little chunks that attract small notice, and most that is preserved is also in little pieces here and there. One of the great needs is the concentration of decision in fewer agencies of government. As it is, a myriad of agencies share responsibility for the marshes and what happens to them—fish and game agencies, public health agencies, state engineering departments, the U.S. Corps of Engineers, and so on.

Much of the book is concerned with an always fascinating study of the ecology of the salt marsh. Here, as elsewhere in the book, the writing is accomplished—lucid and sharp—and never so technical as to intimidate.

Life and Death of the Salt Marsh opens with a four chapter recreation of the history of one particular New England salt marsh, from its beginnings 10,000 years ago at the retreat of the Laurentide Glacier to its end today. For its last three hundred years, the marsh was in the ownership of a family named Deacon, but at last "the history of the marsh was over. From birth, after the retreating glacier, to death, under the laws of progress, the marsh had meant much to many. To scores of animal species it meant life. To the Indians, it meant food. To the first Deacon, it meant open space, a grassland in the wilderness, and sweet ground on which to found a dynasty. To the last Deacon, it meant money."

W.C.

* Life and Death of the Salt Marsh, by John and Mildred Teal. *Atlantic-Little Brown (1969) $7.95; 278 pp., illustrated by Richard Fish.*

PRESS COMMENT

President Nixon rightly calls abandonment of the projected jetport near the Everglades National Park "an outstanding victory for conservation." It is, in fact, a victory that goes beyond even the saving of that priceless natural haven. It is a hopeful indication of what can be done to save the remains of a magnificent national heritage when groups of private citizens are wise enough and determined enough to work together to that end.

There is no reason whatever to doubt that without such intervention the Dade County Port Authority would by now be far along with a giant jetport six miles from the borders of the park. The consequent interference with the flow of water would have upset the cycle of summer flooding and winter drought on which the life of the preserve depends. Add to the destruction of this delicate rhythm the noise of the jet planes, the surge of real estate development on the park's borders and the pollution of both air and water, and it is plain that the greatest haven of solitude on the East Coast would soon have been no more than a large tract of swampy real estate.

What saved Everglades Park, at least for a while, was the quick formation and vigorous action of six conservation societies—the National Audubon Society, the National Parks Association, the Sierra Club, the Wildlife Management Institute, Nature Conservancy and the Wilderness Society. Acting together for the first time on the same issue at the same moment, they roused popular feeling and persuaded top Government officials of the wrong that was being done.

Of those officials, it is fair to note that the most receptive, and in the end effective, was Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel. It is Mr. Hickel who now gives assurance that when the present training strip is abandoned—which will be immediately upon the constructing of training facilities at the new jetport site to be selected—the spot will be "returned to a state of nature."

If a new site is found as quickly as the need dictates, and if real estate developers can be discouraged from invading the Big Cypress Swamp where the jetport was to have been located, the Everglades will be permanently saved. That will indeed be a victory, for as Buffalo Tiger, a local Indian chief observed, "You can't make it. You can't buy it. And when it's gone, it's gone forever."

New York *Times*

The growing army of Georgians who are alarmed and concerned about the rapid commercial inroads being made on the only sea coast we will ever have can be greatly encouraged by the recent acquisition of Sapelo and Wassaw islands by state and federal wildlife conservation agencies . . . .

But perhaps the most important aspect of Sapelo's preservation in its natural state is its 5,000 acres of the most productive marshes in the world, nurturing Georgia's important commercial fishing industry of shrimp, crabs, oysters and sport fishing for sea trout, channel bass, tarpon, and dozens of other important species.

For many of these same reasons, the purchase of Wassaw Island by The Nature Conservancy, subsequently given free of charge to the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife as a waterfowl and shorebird National Wildlife Refuge, is an almost equally important event. In the case of both Sapelo and Wassaw, Georgians have ample reason to be grateful for the unselfish interest that the former island owners and out of state benefactors have in saving Georgia's green coast forever. Both islands were valued at well over two million dollars, but were sold for considerably less to insure their preservation . . . .

Earlier, The Nature Conservancy purchased two smaller Georgia marsh islands, Egg Island and Wolf Island, and leased them to the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. Their purchase insured the preservation of most of the important Altamaha delta of marsh islands that serve as a fertile breeding and nursery ground for fish and birds . . . .

Significantly, most of the money being raised for the purchase of these two spots of green marsh by The Nature Conservancy's vivacious Mrs. Jane Yarn of Atlanta, $28,000 for Egg Island and $80,000 for Wolf Island, has so far come from out of state contributors, especially foundations. Hopefully, the examples of Wassaw, Wolf, and Egg islands will inspire Georgians to do their part to save the coastal islands and marshes from unwise development that will destroy their future value as the last unspoiled natural area on the Atlantic coast for Georgians and all the people of the United States.

The fate of the three Georgia islands connected to the shore by causeways, Tybee, St. Simons, and Jekyll, is already decided, just as the future roles of Sapelo, Wassaw, Wolf, Egg, and Blackbeard have already been determined. Yet to be committed for the future are the important unbridged natural treasures of Cumberland, Ossabaw, and St. Catherines, along with the thousands of acres of marsh and water that connect the Golden Isles

to the shore, the living "Goose that lays the Golden Eggs" of the Golden Isles.

Already, the stage has been set for the final battle in the war for Georgia's coast. In a few brief years, perhaps only months, the struggle will be settled, for better or worse.

The time has come when the people of Georgia must decide if they wish to sacrifice the greenest coast of the Atlantic seaboard to the unscrupulous and greedy designs of men who care more for making money in the shortest possible time than they do for the public's best interest over the longest possible period of time. The conflict has already begun in legislative halls and in the private offices of America's and Georgia's largest and most powerful corporations, embroiling the strongest and the weakest elements of the federal, state, county, and city governments that are supposed to represent the interests of all the people, not just the most moneyed portions of them . . . .

Georgia Game and Fish

I was much interested in John Gould's statement in his November 20 column that he was looking for a "red-hot conservationist who would agree to perpetuate his tract (of woods) as a tax-free wilderness recreation sanctuary." In answer to his final question, "Who's red hot?" I hope I have an answer to meet his need.

The Nature Conservancy is the "hottest" organization I know of, in terms of absolutely reliable and absolutely dedicated and highly effective work in acquiring and protecting such natural areas as forests, swamps, marshes, seashores and islands. It has preserved areas from less than an acre to 12,000 acres in size. In 1968 at least four gifts of land were made to the Conservancy in Mr. Gould's own State of Maine.

In this era when a conservationist must be involved in many kinds of private and public action to safeguard and redeem the planet so that it may continue livable and beautiful, one of the ways in which individual landowners can make a permanent contribution is through gifts to the Nature Conservancy. Such gifts are tax deductible, owners may continue to live on the land, and natural areas may be named as desired by the owner. Others, of course, may help in other ways.

A letter from Elizabeth S. Lay of
Gig Harbor, Washington,
in the *Christian Science Monitor*

Will the bobolinks come back to Long Island next spring to sing the beautiful mating song which has become almost non-existent here because of mushrooming population, buildings, and traffic?

The dedication of Matheson Meadows on Lloyd Neck as a wildlife refuge by the Long Island Nature Conservancy Chapter makes it possible that they will.

Their reintroduction is just one of the projects planned for the 38 acres of meadowland high on the Fort Neck bluff which Mrs. Willis Delano Wood of Lloyd Neck has given to the Conservancy in memory of her father, Dr. William J. Matheson, a philanthropist and a founder of the Allied Chemical and Dye Corp.

Because he loved the Fort Neck meadowlands, they will be preserved in their natural state as a sanctuary where students and scientists may study and enjoy our rapidly disappearing grassland birds and animals . . . .

Dr. Wesley E. Lanyon, who is chairman of Long Island Conservancy's technical advisory committee, is directing the bobolink project and plans other scientific experiments in the rearing and orientation of native birds on the site.

Under his guidance groups of hand-reared bobolinks were introduced to Matheson Meadows this fall, and hopefully will return from their winter migration to southern Argentina to rear their families on the meadows in the spring.

Long Island *Press*

IRONSIDES ISLAND NOW LANDMARK

Ironsides Island in New York was recently added to the National Park Service's National Registry of Natural Landmarks. The 20-acre island, located in the St. Lawrence River, is the 16th conservancy to be included.

Sites so designated must satisfy lengthy scientific criteria, the objectives of which are to "encourage the preservation of sites importantly illustrating the geologic and ecologic character of America."

Other conservancies included in the Registry are as follows: Wassaw Island, Georgia; Pine Hills, Indiana; Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, Maryland; Bergen Swamp, Deer Lick Sanctuary, and Mianus River Gorge, all in New York; in Ohio, Buzzardroost Rock-Lynx Prairie, Brown's Lake Bog, Clifton Gorge, Dysart Woods, Mentor Marsh; Attwater Prairie Chicken Sanctuary, Texas; Mima Mounds, Washington; Cranesville Swamp, West Virginia; and Ridges Sanctuary, Wisconsin.

The founders of the Mianus River Gorge Conservation Project gather at the Trailside Shelter and the Natural History Landmark Plaque. L. to r., Mr. James Todd, Mrs. Anthony Anable and Mr. Anable, and Mr. Robert J. Hamershlag. One other founder, Mrs. Malcolm J. Edgerton, Sr., is deceased. During 1969, the Project's sixteenth year, four pieces of ecologically valuable forest land, totalling 22 acres, were added to the preserve, bringing the total acreage to 260.

DEATH OF RETIRED OHIO CHAIRMAN

The Conservancy greatly regrets the loss of Dr. Charles A. Dambach, a member of the National Council, who died October 31, 1969.

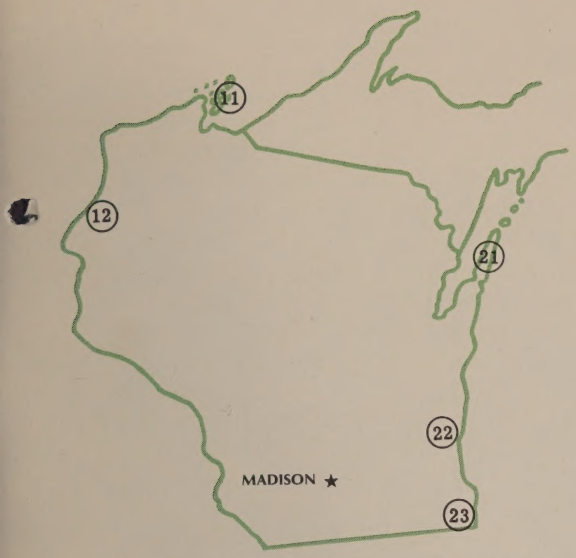
A retired chairman of the Ohio Chapter and winner of the Conservancy's Green Leaf Award, Dr. Dambach was director of the School of Natural Resources of Ohio State University since its establishment in 1968. He was formerly director of the Natural Resources Institute. A member of numerous conservation organizations, Dr. Dambach was noted for his leadership and many contributions to conservation and conservation education. He received his Ph.D. in 1945 from Ohio State University.

BENEFIT FOR MORONGO CANYON

An interesting fund-raising effort by the people of Morongo Valley, California, caused Mrs. Barbara Horton, member of the Southern California Chapter, to wonder whether their approach might be broadened.

The townspeople and chapter members organized a community field day and barbecue, proceeds of which went toward the purchase of Morongo Canyon. The event, announced in Sunset Magazine, attracted more than 800 persons. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. they were served pie, coffee and hot sandwiches, and, at five, a meal. Jeeps donated for the purpose carried them to the canyon where they heard a description of the area's ecology. By the end of the day more than $1,000 had been raised.

Mrs. Horton commented: "The field day is some time past, but its success has created some persistent questions in my mind. What if a fine late spring Sunday could be declared a nationwide TNC Field Day? What if chapter naturalists were on hand at their project sites throughout the country to lead visitors and explain the particular ecologies involved? Such an event would give news media across the nation a reason for telling the story of The Nature Conservancy and the work it does. It might, as in the case of Morongo Valley, inspire more community assistance in getting the job done."



Headquarters of the 1970 Annual Meeting of The Nature Conservancy will be Lowell Hall, a private hotel-type dormitory and conference center on the University of Wisconsin campus in Madison. Complete information on the 21st Annual Meeting will be sent to all members in time for arrangements to be made.

PRE-CONFERENCE FIELD TRIPS

NORTHWEST WISCONSIN TRIP

⑪ **Apostle Islands** (Wednesday, August 26): A boat trip to Stockton Island, one of the scenic, historic Apostle Islands in Lake Superior. Over 10,000 acres, the island is the second largest in the group and also one of the most beautiful. It has everything—a big lake, marvelous blueberrying, a long beach on the southwest side that "sings" as you walk through it, and fantastic rock outcrops and caves, as well as an agate beach.

This trip must be limited to the first twenty persons to sign up for it.

⑫ **Crex Meadows** (Thursday, August 27): A guided trip through an extensive (26,000 acres) prairie wetland restoration. Following cessation of burning in northwest Wisconsin, the area grew up into scrub jackpine, the farmed area eroded and failed, and some wetlands were drained.

You will see 10,000 acres which have been reflooded as an attractive wildfowl habitat. Prescribed burning on the uplands has restored sharptail grouse and deer habitat. Over much of the upland, the original prairie has reappeared.

Note: The drive from Crex Meadows to Madison is about 7 hours, mainly on Interstate.

EASTERN WISCONSIN TRIP

㉑ **Toft Point and Ridges Sanctuary** (Wednesday, August 26): The 250-acre Toft Point preserve is on a peninsula extending into Lake Michigan. A rocky point, a waterfowl marsh, white cedar swamps frequented by deer, an old Indian camp and fishing grounds are among the attractions. Adjacent to Toft Point is the Ridges Sanctuary, a place of infinite variety featuring a series of Lake Michigan beachlines supporting several species of orchids.

㉒ **Cedarburg Forest or** ㉓ **Chiwaukee Prairie** (Thursday, August 27): **Cedarburg Forest** is located 20 miles north of Milwaukee. It is a beech hardwood forest (177 acres) tied in with state-owned Cedarburg Bog (869 acres), in the kettle-dotted, hilly ground moraine left by the glacier. The heart of the forest is a climax beech-maple-basswood stand of splendid quality. Beech, a rarity in Wisconsin, reaches the western fringes of its range only a few miles inland from Lake Michigan. Cedarburg Bog immediately adjoining includes bogs in all stages of succession from open water to floating mat.

Chiwaukee Prairie is the best remaining example of a Lake Michigan shore wet prairie. More than 200 species have been recorded here. The abundance of plants flowering throughout most of the growing season and the variety make this a spot of spectacular beauty. In May the prairie is a sea of shooting star, puccoon, blue and yellow-eyed grass, lousewort, and Indian paintbrush. Later the area is colored with phlox, brown-eyed susan, and the rare white-fringed orchid. The fall bloom boasts four species of blazing star, fringed gentians, and ladies' tresses orchids.

POST-CONFERENCE FIELD TRIP

㉓ **Chiwaukee Prairie** (Monday, August 31): See above.

Each tour will be guided by competent ecologists. There will be sufficient guides at each preserve so that the groups conducted through the areas can be small.

The field trips are being handled entirely by the Wisconsin Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. For further information, please write Mr. Paul J. Olson, 4122 Mineral Point Road, Madison, Wisconsin 53705. You will receive maps, a list of motels and camping grounds, as well as additional information.

ANNUAL MEETING
AUGUST 28-29
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